

From: Tom O'Hern
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/8/02 11:35pm
Subject: A slap on the hand is not enough

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of Seattle I find my self very close to the root of the problem with the case of Microsoft. I am very involved in the computer industry and have for the last 15 years spent a good deal of time watching Microsoft. I have watched first hand in the industry how Microsoft has gained the upper hand not by producing a superior product but by buying out competitors and using the legal system to drain their rivals.

In the computer industry there are many competing products. I have found though, that preferential treatment is given to Microsoft products. Why? Even though IT managers know that other products are superior/compatible/cheaper it would be insane to go any other route because Microsoft will put an end to that copetition sooner or later and anyone who has built a business on those other products will have to pay absurd amounts of money to switch over their entire division.

You might think Microsoft would do well to incorporate those ideas in to their own products but they rarely do. They know what power they have and the corporation has become an entity of its own. It answers to stock holders and board members (who usually have their hands in MS's pockets more than the stockholders), not to ethical practices.

I could go on but I am sure there are many others that will in my place. Many people are speaking out but with out *their* governments backing no justice will be served. Free trade must be established. A simple slap on Microsoft's hand will not achieve anything. At the least the company must be broken up. Please.

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